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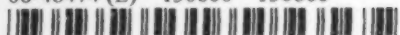
**Human rights questions: human rights questions, including
alternative approaches for improving the effective
enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

**Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 24 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 116 (b).

(Signed) António Monteiro
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 24 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

Ten years after the 1990 legislative elections in Burma/Myanmar, which the democratic party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), won by such a convincing margin, the European Union deeply regrets that the Burmese authorities still fail to respect the clear democratic verdict of the people.

The European Union furthermore expresses its grave concern that the period leading up to this anniversary has been marked by fresh arrests of NLD activists.

It reiterates its call on the Burmese authorities to respect human rights, restore democracy and engage in a dialogue with opposition parties and ethnic minorities that could lead to lasting national reconciliation in a united and democratic State.

The European Union also recalls its willingness to send a further Troika mission to Rangoon/Yangon to promote positively and constructively the aims of the European Union's policy towards Burma/Myanmar through the establishment of a meaningful political dialogue.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland and Liechtenstein, countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.
